IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs 3-4 of page 17 as follows:

The network-enabled 3D computing environment Server 334: Since regular webservers may or may not handle all the protocols needed to deliver 3D desktop objects, a 3D net-enabled webserver add-on 334 is required. Add-ons can be easily written for Apache, Frontpage, and other servers. This additional utility would allow the server to recognize and handle the network-enabled 3D computing environment.

The Server Maintenance System and Database 332: Any network-enabled 3D computing environment server should include a system to communicate with the registry 350, allowing for periodic updates to the network-enabled 3D computing environment-based protocols, as well as increasing the library of graphical objects that could be stored in the maintenance system and database 332 on the server 330. By storing the objects in the maintenance system and database 332 on the server 330, the SDK 312 could be used by users to automatically generate 3D-enabled webpages without having the SDK on their desktop.

Please amend the paragraph on pages 20-21 as follows:

Referring to Figure 4, the use of the present invention in an e-commerce setting is illustrated. As shown in Figure 4, a user 410 accesses a public network such as the Internet

and logs onto a business website to order software. Such business websites are common on the Internet (Example: Macromedia). It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many e-commerce websites exist on the Internet through which software may be ordered and purchased. The user 410 access to a networked e-commerce website 420 is illustrated in Figure 4 with an arrow 411. In this example of the present invention in an e-commerce context, the webpage accessed by user 410 appears as any typical webpage provided by the particular e-commerce provider 420. However, by previous agreement between a provider of the present invention and the e-commerce provider 420, the user 410 access and request for purchase to e-commerce client 420 causes the e-commerce client 420 software to make an access to a 3D engine and e-commerce front end store ~~from~~ 430 on e-commerce client website 420. This access 421 to the 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 is not apparent to user 410. However, 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 drive the e-commerce transaction with user 410. Thus, 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 processes the user 410 order and downloads the requested or purchased software to the user's client machine 460. Because 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 controls the order processing and download transaction with user 410, the 3D engine and e-commerce front end 430 may append a persistent 3D environment client kernel 465 to the software requested or purchased by user 410. Thus, the user 410 requested or purchased software with the appended 3D environment persistent kernel 465 is downloaded to client machine 460 as shown in Figure 4 by arrows 431 and 442. When user 410 installs the downloaded software on client machine 460, the persistent 3D kernel is automatically installed on the user's desktop environment at client machine 460. Following the downloading of the requested or purchased software with the appended 3D environment persistent client kernel 465, e-commerce engine component 440 automatically notifies the 3D environment server 450 via interface 441. In this manner, the

3D environment server is now aware of the identity and/or location of a client machine 460 to which the persistent 3D kernel 465 has been downloaded. Upon automatic installation of the 3D persistent client kernel 465, the user is given a demonstration of the 3D environment software and given the choice to activate a full three-dimensional computing environment on the user's desktop at client machine 460. If the user 410 chooses not to activate the 3D computing environment, the 3D environment persistent client 465 nevertheless remains active in an unobtrusive two-dimensional persistent window on the user's desktop for the delivery of advertisement or messages to the user's desktop. As such, the present invention provides a persistent presence on the user's desktop for the placement of advertising, messages, or the gathering of information about the user for the benefit of the e-commerce engine 440 with which the present invention has been connected. Because the three-dimensional environment server 450 was advised by component 440 of the download of the persistent kernel 465 to client system 460, the 3D server 450 may keep a registry of such downloads along with corresponding user profiles, buying patterns, searches, etc. This registry and associated user information can be made accessible to the e-commerce client 420 via interface 451 and accessible to the client 460 via interface 461 with 3D server 450. In this manner, the e-commerce supplier 420 can thereby obtain information about users of the e-commerce site via 3D server and registry 450. Because the present invention through 3D server 450 can provide e-commerce client 420 with a wealth of information about particular users, the e-commerce client 420 may generate targeted advertising or product offerings for particular client machines 460 and the client machines 460 can contact the e-commerce client 420 via interface 462 in response to the offerings. In this manner, the present invention becomes a valuable information link between Internet e-commerce suppliers and e-commerce consumers.

Please amend the paragraph on pages 22-23 as follows:

Referring to Figure 5, the use of the present invention in an e-community database setting is illustrated. As shown in Figure 5, a user 510 may access the public network, such as the Internet, and log into a conventional e-community database 520 (such as e-groups.com). Once the user has accessed the e-community database, the user typically navigates to a particular selected area of interest, as provided by the conventional e-community database technology. For example, the user 510 may navigate to a special interest area related to, for example, photography. By prior agreement between the e-community database provider and the provider of the technology of the present invention, the e-community database website can be augmented to include a user interface for the selection and activation of a three-dimensional version of the e-community database. Using this interface, user 510 may activate a 3D version of the e-community database 520 via interface 511. As a result of this activation, the e-community database website communicates with a three-dimensional environment spacial shell component 530 via interface 521. Three-dimensional shell component 530 includes a three-dimensional spacial representation of the two-dimensional environment previously provided by e-community database 520. Instead of viewing email text, photos, or objects in a flat two-dimensional environment, the user can now move through the e-community database 520 in a three-dimensional computing environment, interacting with others, and viewing the content of the e-community database 520 in a compelling three-dimensional environment. In this environment, visual real estate is created and the user experiences a sensation of sharing a physical three-dimensional space with other users. In this three-dimensional spacial environment, advertising and other paid messages can be placed and

directed specifically to those interest area users. At block 540 in Figure 5, the user may navigate through the three-dimensional spacial e-community worlds and link to other sites and/or perform software downloads via interfaces 431 and 542 to the client machine 560. Once in the three-dimensional computing environment enabled e-community database, user 510 has an option to download the three-dimensional environment software to the desktop of his or her client machine 560. As a result of this download, the three-dimensional environment server 550 is notified of the client download via interface 541. In this manner, the three-dimensional server 550 and the registry contained therein is informed of the three-dimensional software download to a client machine 560 and may keep track of the location and/or identity of the user who has downloaded and installed the three-dimensional computing environment software. Email or software downloads from the e-community database 520 to its users will include a link to initiate the downloading of a three-dimensional environment persistent client kernel 565 to the desktop on the client machine 560. In this manner, the e-community database provider 520 retains a persistent presence for a three-dimensional computing environment on client computer 560. Again, as described above, this persistent client kernel 565 may be used to obtain client information such as profiles, buying patterns, searches, etc. which can be retained in the registry of 3D server 550 via interface 561. This user information retained in the registry of 3D server 550 may be accessed and used by the e-community database provider 520 via interface 551. In this manner, e-community database provider 520 may employ targeted advertising, targeted information publications, links, or other information particularly relevant to individual client machines 560 and the client machines 560 can access the e-community database 520 via interface 562 in response to the information.